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NEWSLETTER *"(nuclear weapons) are totally useless– except only to deter one's opponent from using them."*– former Sec. of Defense Robert McNamara September 1988

Volume 2, Number 9 Editor: Mark Bagley

Nuclear Arms Control and U.S. Security: Dukakis vs. Bush

• **MICHAEL DUKAKIS** understands the role and the limits of military force today. He realizes that curbing the development of more dangerous nuclear weapons is critical to our national security.

While most governors avoid arms control issues, Governor Michael Dukakis has been outspoken on the subjects of national security and nuclear arms control:

"We have the best opportunity in our lifetimes to achieve meaningful arms control and to reduce the risk of nuclear war; to get our children thinking again about what they'll do *when* they grow up, not *if* they grow up."

Dukakis argues that "the only effective defense against the horrors of nuclear weapons lies in the prevention of nuclear war." He has stated that one of his major goals as President would be "to do more than control the arms race. We have the opportunity to stop it. To reverse it. And the way to stop the arms race is to stop building and testing nuclear weapons."

If elected President Dukakis "would move quickly, in concert with our European allies, to propose large, asymmetrical reductions in conventional forces in Europe, focusing on the Warsaw Pact's advantage in armored units, which pose the greatest threat to NATO, and which could trigger a nuclear conflict."

Michael Dukakis offers clear, sensible, and affordable national security policies that reduce the likelihood of nuclear war.

• **GEORGE BUSH** represents the military policies of the past. As a congressman in the late 1960's, Bush's votes on foreign policy and military issues were pro-arms race more than 90% of the time. As Vice-President, he has remained a true hawk, always throwing more money at the Pentagon rather than supporting bilateral, verifiable agreements to halt Soviet development of destabilizing new weapons.

When Bush is not disdainful of arms control, he is vague. Asked to comment on the INF Treaty, Bush replied "we're not going to do a dumb deal." Bush also hides from the issues with his "I'm the next Reagan" answer. For example when questioned about his foreign policy positions Bush has responded, "my position is the same as Ronald Reagan's. Write that down."

Many of Bush's statements reveal a lack of understanding of arms control. Commenting on military spending Bush stated: "While maintaining a strong defense through the continuing process of modernizing our strategic weapons systems, America must also attempt to reduce the level of nuclear weapons through continuing arms control negotiations and by continuing to pursue and support fully the Strategic Defense Initiative." This comment ignores the fact that by building more nuclear weapons, the United States compels the Soviet Union to do the same. If we pursue Star Wars, the Soviets will respond in kind, and the result will be a new arms race in space.

Today, most Americans understand the limited role that nuclear weapons play in maintaining our national security. Most Americans support meaningful arms control But George Bush supports a continuation of the arms race, no matter what it costs.

• ON MILITARY SPENDING:

Dukakis: "The price tag of the arms race goes up and up, but the product has no value. There is no return on the investment...We need capable and versatile military forces. But we can't have military strength without economic strength."

Bush: "I think it ought to keep going, and it will, go up."

• ON STAR WARS (SDI):

Dukakis: "The administration's SDI program is a fantasy– a technological illusion which most scientists say cannot be achieved in the foreseeable future. The defenses envisioned won't make the Unites States more secure–(SDI) will simply fuel the arms race..."

Bush: "Research on SDI can lead to an effective defensive shield." Bush is on the record in support of "vigorous research and testing" of Star Wars.

• ON NUCLEAR TEST BANS:

Dukakis: "I support a mutual and verifiable ban on nuclear weapons testing and I would agree to a mutual moratorium on testing pending the conclusion of such an agreement." Dukakis supports a mutual halt of ballistic missile flight testing.

Bush: Opposes bans on warhead testing and ballistic missile flight testing.

• ON ANTI-SATELITE WEAPONS BAN:

Dukakis: "I support a mutual and verifiable ban on the testing and deployment of anti-satellite weapons."

Bush: Position unstated. The Reagan administration has pushed for testing of anti-satellite weapons.

• ON ABM TREATY COMPLIANCE:

Dukakis: "The United States and the Soviet Union should abide by the traditional, correct interpretation of the ABM Treaty."

Bush: Does not support the traditional interpretation of the ABM Treaty."

-- Excerpted from Freeze Voter phamphlet, July 1988.

Nuclear Arms Control and U.S. Security: Wilson vs. McCarthy

Incumbent Senator Pete Wilson has supported the arms race at every opportunity. His challenger, California Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy is exactly the opposite, favoring arms control legislation.

Pete Wilson has cast a deciding vote in favor of increased military spending in eight key Senate roll call votes (see Aug. newsletter). If elected, Leo McCarthy could have a significant effect on the fate of arms control legislation in the Senate.

Senator Wilson is campaigning heavily on the theme that he has helped bring jobs to California by directing military projects to the state. He favors early deployment of Star Wars and supports maximum funding for the program. Wilson opposed an amendment to uphold the traditional restrictive interpretation of the ABM Treaty which would hinder testing of Star Wars weapons. He also opposes a comprehensive nuclear test ban and opposes a moratorium on anti-satellite weapons. Wilson voted for the MX missile and continued production of chemical weapons and nerve gas. He has amassed one of the most negative senate records on arms control. On the Council for a Livable World's Nuclear Arms Race Index, Wilson has scored zero every year but one since 1983; in 1985 he peaked at 8 percent. Meanwhile, he has voted to curtail spending on programs involving education, health care, housing and protection against toxic pollution.

McCarthy has criticized Wilson's Senate votes for Star Wars and the Reagan military buildup, and attacked the Administration for devoting resources to "Star Wars instead of education, health care, and job training." He has endorsed a bilateral verifiable nuclear test ban treaty and opposed production of the MX misile. McCarthy also opposes continued aid to the Nicaraguan contras. His election would replace one of the Senate's most extreme milatarists with a strong arms control advocate.

The Campaign

The U.S. Senate race between Pete Wilson and Leo McCarthy has finally begun to heat up after a slow start by the Democratic challenger McCarthy. One of the latest polls shows McCarthy now within 10 points of Wilson.

Although McCarthy's fundraising is going well, Wilson has a much larger campaign warchest and has spent millions on his campaign already. McCarthy has been saving much of his money to use in the final two months of the campaign. He needs to raise another $1 million soon in order to give Pete Wilson a "run for his money."

For more information or to make a contribution to the McCarthy campaign contact:

McCarthy for U.S. Senator
5601 Slauson Ave., Suite 226
Culver City, CA 90230

-or-

Bev Brons
Democratic headquarters in Bishop
873-8210.

☞ Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 7:00 pm

Place: 162 Moffett, Bishop (corner of Moffett and Willow).
Call Mark Bagley at 873-5326 for info or directions.

The Steering Committee is the group that takes the ideas from our regular meetings and provides some direction to SNAP. Everyone is invited to attend and participate. Please join us as we plan our next meeting and activities.

From the Editor

Voter Registration

Be sure you are registered to vote! The deadline is Tuesday, October 11. Mail-in registration forms are available at the Post Office. They will also be available at our Oct. SNAP meeting. REGISTER yourself, and your friends and neighbors.

Thank you

Thank you to this month's contributors and the folks who helped to get this out: Kerry Jellison, Robert Atlee, and Jeff Cook.

HELP SUPPORT SNAP

Send donations to: SNAP, P.O. Box 132, Bishop, CA 93514

☞ Next SNAP Meeting

Sunday, October 2ed, 7:00 pm

Place: 373 Mt. Tom Rd., Bishop; Peggy and Ray Gray's house
(one house before turnoff to the Scheidlinger's)
Call Mark at 873-5326 for directions.

The Election:

Join us for an informative presentation on the arms control positions of the candidates in the upcoming elections. We'll discuss how we can counter some of the pro-defense build-up arguments and what we can do to work for arms control candidates. Voter registration materials will be available for you to take to get others registered.

Fall Colors Peace Flight:

Robert Atlee will show slides from other balloon rallys to get us in the spirit. He will give us the latest on what is planned and there will be time for a discussion and brainstorming on additional ideas for the event. If you want to work on this, please come to the meeting. We will do some organizing for the various tasks that need to be done, hopefully breaking into small groups for each task.

Coffee and snacks will be served. Children are welcome, but in the absence of David Scheidlinger there will be no child care provided.

☆☆☆☆☆☆ PRIME-TIME TELEVISION SPECIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆

Mandate From Mainstreet: Americans Advise the Next President

Make plans to see *Mandate From Mainstreet: Americans Advise the Next President*, an innovative, pre-election television special produced by the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Better World Society. *Mandate From Mainstreet* is a one-hour documentary which examines the changing position of Ronald Reagan on U.S.-Soviet relations and looks at directions the next administration could take to achieve deep reductions in nuclear weapons and the restructuring of our national security spending.

The program is moderated by Harvard Law Professor Charles Nesson, with commentary by former arms negotiators Max Kampelman and Sidney Graybeal, Admiral Robert Inman, Gen. David Jones, William Colby, Suzanne Massie, Paul Kennedy and others.

DATE: Monday, October 24, 7:05 pm
Friday, November 4, 7:20 pm

ON: Superstation WTBS (Ch. 13 in Bishop)

We have ordered a VHS tape of this program. Please call Mark at 873-5326 if you would like to borrow it.

SNAP FALL COLORS PEACE FLIGHT

Saturday & Sunday, October 22-23, 1988, Bishop

Balloon Rally, Potluck Brunch, Picnic, and Country Dance

SCHEDULE:

Saturday, Oct. 22

- Sunrise balloon flight (7:30 am). Lift-off just north of Hwy. 395 from the Shell "Y" Mart at Hwy. 6 junction.
- Potluck brunch at Bishop City Park, 9-11 am.
- Potluck dinner at Bishop City Park, 4-7 pm.
- Country dance in Park or at Home Street School, 7 pm.

Sunday, Oct. 23

- Sunrise balloon flight (7:30 am), see location on Sat.
- Potluck brunch at Bishop City Park, 9-11 am.
- Rides for the public are available by reservation. $50-100 for a 30-60 minute ride.
- We'll get together to make peace banners to fly from the balloons. We now expect 10 to 20 balloons!
- Peace information booth will be set up in the park.
- If you can help, even if for only a few hours, please indicate on the coupon below and mail it to Robert Atlee, 201 S. Warren St., Bishop, CA 93514, or call 873-5838 and leave a message.
- Sponsored by SNAP and High Sierra Ballooning.

If you plan to help - please attend our SNAP meeting on Oct. 2.

FALL COLORS PEACE FLIGHT — I would like to help with the following:

in prepration of the event

- ☐ Banner making (this is a major need)
- ☐ Local promotion and publicity
- ☐ Mailings
- ☐ Whatever is needed

Other ideas:

on Oct. 22-23

- ☐ Provide food for potluck or breakfasts (extra needed for pilots)
- ☐ Housing for pilots and their families
- ☐ Help with rally itself
- ☐ SNAP information table

Name: Phone #:

Mail to: Robert Atlee, 201 S. Warren St., Bishop, CA 93514, or call 873-5838

Register to Vote!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND ACTION ALERTS

Fiscal Year 1989 Defense Authorization Bill

As reported last month, President Reagan unexpectedly vetoed the 1989 Defense Authorization Bill. He objected to most of the arms control provisions and budget cuts, although they enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress. Specifically, the bill would have:

- Cut Reagan's $5 billion request for the Star Wars program down to $4 billion and effectively killed early deployment of the Space Based Interceptor by cutting funding back to $85 million.
- Cut Reagan's request for the MX rail garrison basing mode from $837 million to $250 million.
- Established a moratorium on depressed trajectory missile flight testing.
- Established a nuclear test ban readiness program and provided $37.6 million in funding for seismic verification research.
- Required the early retirement of 2 Poseiden nuclear missile submarines to bring the U.S. closer to the sublimits of offensive nuclear forces as called for in the SALT II Treaty.
- Barred Star Wars tests that would violate the traditional interpretation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Currently the House/Senate Conference Committee is meeting to draft a Defense Appropriations bill, but it is unlikely that they will make a decision on arms control provisions. The chairmen of the Congressional Armed Services Committees, Sen. Sam Nunn and Rep. Les Aspin are in discussions with White House officials over the provisions. The final battle for these provisions may be fought when Congress passes a Continuing Resolution for defense spending later this year.

ACTION: (A repeat of last month's action request.) Rep. Bill Thomas (Inyo) and Senator Pete Wilson have opposed the arms control provisions and the lower spending levels contained in the vetoed bill. Rep. Richard Lehman (Mono) and Senator Cranston supported the bill. Write or call Thomas and Wilson to urge their support for arms control measures during the upcoming Defense budgeting process. Urge Lehman and Cranston to continue their support in the face of the President's opposition.

Where to Write or Call

Senator _____
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Bill Thomas (Inyo) -or-
Hon. Richard Lehman (Mono)
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Follow your letter with a telephone call, or just call, via the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121. If you have specific questions, you can call the Nuclear Arms Control Hotline (Eastern Standard Time) at 202-543-4100, or for a recorded message, call 202-543-0006.

Next SNAP Meeting

Sunday, Oct. 2, at 7:00 pm
At the Gray's House
373 Mt. Tom Rd., Bishop
One house before turnoff to the Scheidlinger's.
Call Mark at 873-5326 for info or directions.

Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 7:00 pm
At Mark Bagley's House
162 Moffett, Bishop
At the corner of Moffett and Willow.
Call Mark at 873-5326 for info or directions.

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